THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (c) No Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Strengthening of TV network

1040. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government to strengthen the network in the main towns as well as in rural Assam as a supplement to newly inaugurated twenty four hour service project;

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The North East Channel, which began 24 hours transmission on 27.12.2000, is a satellite channel and its programmes can be viewed throughout North East through cable network/dish antennae system. Prasar Bharati has informed that terrestrial transmitters are not envisaged to be set up for relay of the North East channel. For expansion of DDI services in Assam, Prasar Bharati is setting up a transposer at Guwahati.

Cultural invasion in the country

1041. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of programmes which are against the ethos of Indian culture are beaming in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have directed DTH operators to adhere to the cultural values and traditions of the country and also propose to take action against violators;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(d) other steps Government propose to take to check cultural invasion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) The programmes of satellite

channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Programme code provides, *inter-alia*, that no programme shall be carried in the cable service, which offends against good taste or decency, contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths, or denigrates women. Wherever found necessary, the programmes of the channels are also monitored. Action against continued violation of the prescribed codes is to be taken by the authorized officers of the State Government, which include the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified by the State Government.

(b) At present, there are no DTH operators in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Malpractices in the official media

1042. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers and other cadres in the official electronic media have been proceeded against for corruption during the last five years;

(b) whether any convictions; and

(c) whether there is a Vigilance Cell in her Ministry to curb malpractices in the official media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

(c) There is a Vigilance set up in the Ministry which, *inter alia*, coordinates with the Vigilance set ups of the Media Units, including Prasar Bharati.

Nexus between film makers and underworld

1043. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of leaders of film industry is being proposed to discuss the nexus between film makers and the underworld;

(b) if so, the response received in this regard, so far; and